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REMARKS

A. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if placed in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 7 and previously intervening claims 3, 5 and 6. Claims 3 and 5-7 have been canceled. While the features of these claims are recited, the phrasing of the features has been amended to enhance the readability of the claim and remove redundant language.

Accordingly, allowance of claim 1 and the remaining dependent claims (claims 8-12) is respectfully requested.

B. Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4, 9-15, 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,795,867 to Ma in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0049790 to Faccin. Claims 5, 6 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ma in view of Faccin and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0010754 to Brendel. Claims 8 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Ma and Faccin in view of Brendel and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,725,253 to Okano.

As indicated, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 7, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if placed in independent form. Claims 2-6 and 13-19 have been canceled. Claims 8-12 have been amended for consistency and/or to improve the readability of those claims.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

C. New Claims

Independent claim 20 and claim 21 depending from claim 20 have been added. Claim 20 is directed to a method of balancing workload in a VoIP system and includes

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the features of claim 7 that the Examiner has indicated as meeting the requirements for patentability. Accordingly, allowance of claims 20 and 21 is respectfully requested.

D. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned representative to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988, our Order No. INMEP0103US.

Respectfully submitted,

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